**IN THE CLAIMS:** 

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below:

1. (Original) A system for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise

collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

a set of one or more meta-model elements each capable of being negotiated by two or more

enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model that describes an agreement between the

enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises, each meta-model element in the set

describing a portion of a potential standard for collaboration between enterprises;

a meta-model negotiation service operable to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for

collaborations between the enterprises;

provide access to the set of meta-model elements;

receive selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and

incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement

between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model elements;

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for

collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations

between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-

model.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is

operable to communicate the negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the

collaboration software being operable to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated

meta-model substantially automatically and substantially independent of modification to the

collaboration software subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the agreement associated with the

negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and

reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the

enterprises.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model elements within the set

comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 4, wherein a meta-model element specifying a

collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the

following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the

transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with

another system of record.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the set of meta-model elements is

specified in a template.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service

comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

8. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is

associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the meta-

model elements.

Amendment Attorney Docket No. 020431.1056 Serial No. 09/971,718 Page 4 of 33 9. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

10. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

11. (Original) A method for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise

collaboration between trading partners, the method performed using one or more computers, the

method comprising:

receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for

collaborations between the enterprises;

providing access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each meta-model element in

the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model

that describes an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises,

each meta-model element in the set describing a portion of a potential standard for collaboration

between enterprises;

receiving selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and

incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement

between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises;

facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model elements;

incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for

collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations

between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-

model.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising communicating the

negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software being

operable to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially

automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software

subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

Amendment Attorney Docket No. 020431.1056 Serial No. 09/971,718 13. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the agreement associated with the

negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and

reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the

enterprises.

14. (**Original**) The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model elements within the

set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein a meta-model element specifying a

collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the

following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the

transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with

another system of record.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the set of meta-model elements is

specified in a template.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service

comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

18. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is

associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the meta-

model elements.

Amendment Attorney Docket No. 020431.1056 Serial No. 09/971,718 Page 8 of 33 19. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).
20. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

21. (Original) Software for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise

collaboration between trading partners, the software embodied in computer-readable media and

when executed operable to:

receive an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard for

collaborations between the enterprises;

provide access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each meta-model element in

the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated meta-model

that describes an agreement between the enterprises as to

collaborations between the enterprises, each meta-model element in the set describing a

portion of a potential standard for collaboration between enterprises;

receive selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation and

incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement

between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises;

facilitate negotiation of the selected meta-model elements;

incorporate negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for

collaborations between the enterprises; and

communicate the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable collaborations between

the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the negotiated meta-model.

22. (Original) The software of Claim 21, further operable to communicate the

negotiated meta-model to collaboration software of the enterprises, the collaboration software being

operable to understand and collaborate according to the negotiated meta-model substantially

automatically and substantially independent of modification to the collaboration software

subsequent to negotiation of the meta-model.

Amendment Attorney Docket No. 020431.1056 Serial No. 09/971,718 23. **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein the agreement associated with the negotiated meta-model is machine-actionable at the collaboration software of the enterprises and

reflects a private, differentiated standard for collaboration customized for particular needs of the

enterprises.

24. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model elements within the

set comprise one or more of the following:

role types;

dimensions each comprising a supply chain element;

5 dimensionalities each comprising a combination of supply chain elements;

access of particular role types to particular dimensionalities;

collaborative transaction types relative to particular dimensionalities;

shared operations visible to the at least two enterprises; and

temporal structures of collaborative transactions.

25. (Original) The software of Claim 24, wherein a meta-model element specifying a

collaborative transaction type relative to a particular dimensionality comprises one or more of the

following:

structure of the transaction;

data elements associated with the transaction;

a state model describing a life cycle of the transaction;

access that a role type has to data elements of the transaction relative to a state of the

transaction;

actions that a role type can execute on the transaction relative to a state of the transaction;

and

whether the transaction is a system of record or whether synchronization must occur with

another system of record.

26. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the set of meta-model elements is

specified in a template.

27. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service

comprises a joint business planning network service (JBPNS).

28. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the meta-model negotiation service is

associated with a network service provider through which the enterprises can negotiate the meta-

model elements.

29. **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein the negotiated meta-model is represented using extensible markup language (XML).

30. **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein a collaboration comprises execution of a business process or transaction according to the negotiated meta-model.

31. (Original) A system for facilitating negotiation of a standard for inter-enterprise

collaboration between trading partners, comprising:

means for receiving an indication that two or more enterprises wish to negotiate a standard

for collaborations between the enterprises;

means for providing access to a set of one or more meta-model elements, each meta-model

element in the set capable of being negotiated by the enterprises and incorporated into a negotiated

meta-model that describes an agreement between the enterprises as to collaborations between the

enterprises, each meta-model element in the set describing a portion of a potential standard for

collaboration between enterprises;

means for receiving selections of one or more of the meta-model elements for negotiation

and incorporation into a negotiated meta-model, the negotiated meta-model describing an agreement

between the enterprises as to collaborations between the enterprises;

means for facilitating negotiation of the selected meta-model elements;

means for incorporating negotiated meta-model elements into the negotiated meta-model for

collaborations between the enterprises; and

means for communicating the negotiated meta-model to the enterprises to enable

collaborations between the enterprises according to the standard for collaborations reflected in the

negotiated meta-model.

32-50. (Canceled)

Amendment Attorney Docket No. 020431.1056 Serial No. 09/971,718 Page 14 of 33